

Explore

Madison County

2022

WATSON MILL BRIDGE
EST. 1885

Photo by Lauren Peebles-Townsend,
Dream Chaser Productions

A publication of
Mainstreet Newspapers
and The Madison County
Journal



EXPERT CARE. CLOSE TO HOME.

Elbert Memorial Hospital delivers quality care for Elbert and surrounding counties. Our new equipment and enhanced services mean our patients get quality healthcare without having to travel out of town.

NEW SERVICES INCLUDE

Swing Bed Program: Inpatient rehabilitation for patients discharged from a hospital stay, but who need additional care before returning home.

Infusion Center: Patients receive infusion therapy from our experienced IV infusion therapy team in a comfortable setting.

Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center: Patients love the convenience of receiving wound care and hyperbaric care at EMH.

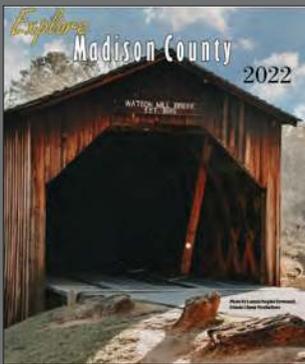
Learn More About All of Our Services:
706.283.3151 | EMHCare.net



Elbert Memorial
HOSPITAL

Explore Madison County

About the Cover



If you're going to "Explore Madison County," then one of the "must-see" destinations is Watson Mill Bridge State Park, which includes the longest covered bridge in the state, spanning 229 feet across the South Fork River.

—Photo by Lauren Peeples-Townsend, Dream Chaser Productions

About the Edition

Welcome to the third edition of *Explore Madison*! This magazine is produced by *The Madison County Journal* in Danielsville, Georgia.

Explore Madison encourages our readers to explore the rich history, services, and businesses that make Madison County home. To maintain this strong, vibrant local community, we must actively support our local businesses. Additionally, local government depends on our active participation, whether it is staying informed about local issues or seeking public office. Being personally involved in our community matters to us all. It is in this spirit that this community guide is produced.

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MADICO MADE

Your Challenge: Make Your Day MADICO MADE

By Anna Strickland
Director,
Madison
County
Chamber
of Commerce
astrickland@
madison
countyga.org

You name it, we have it. (And we are among the best!) What do the second best winery in the state (choicewineries.com), the tenth best school system in the state (niche.com), one of the ten best pizzerias in the state (bestthingsga.com), and the supplier of the year for the entire state (Georgia Department of Economic Development) all have in common? You guessed it! Boutier Winery, Madison County Charter School System, Papparoni's Pizza, and SMI Composites are all based here in Madison County. They are MADICO MADE.

At the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to promote the assets that strengthen our local economy and give us a competitive advantage at the state and regional level. The MADICO MADE program is the Chamber's key marketing initiative that aims to do just that by celebrating the people, places, and products that make Madison County unique.

MADICO MADE enables the Chamber to cohesively brand the community's superior products, businesses, and talent while encouraging consumers to support our member businesses and organizations.

We encourage the greater Madison County community to support all things MADICO MADE first before going elsewhere. We encourage the public to "SHOP MADICO MADE," "HIRE MADICO MADE," "EAT MADICO MADE," and the list goes on.

The MADICO
MADE program
is the Chamber's
key marketing
initiative that aims
to celebrate the
people, places and
products that make
Madison County
unique.



Make an Impact:

What happens when you practice a "think local" mindset and make your day MADICO MADE as much as possible? Everyone benefits. According to Fundera, for every \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, approximately \$68 will stay in the community. The positive ripple effects are unending.

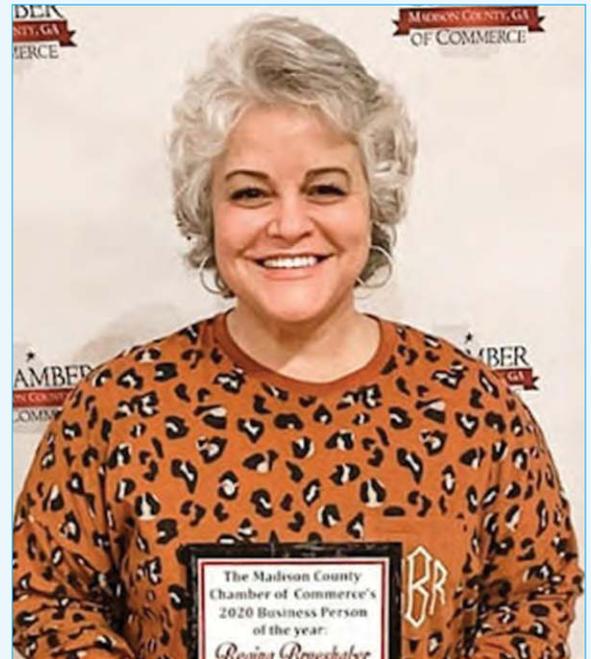
Connect and Grow Through the Chamber

Julie McKay (2021 Business Person of the Year) of Comfort Homes of Athens and Hometown Interiors (2019 Small Business of the Year) is a dedicated member and champion of our organization.

"I cannot thank the Chamber enough. They are constantly working with me and other members to promote our businesses and our community. Working together with different committees to make our county stand out and thrive! Our citizens are noticing the change and it makes all of us proud to live in Madison County!" - Julie McKay.

Supporting local business

Perhaps no one makes the case for supporting MADICO MADE better than the Chamber's 2020 Business Person of the Year, Regina Brueshaber of Gina Belle's Restaurant: "It means everything to us - you are supporting our staff and their families. You are supporting local educational and sports programs because your business allows me to give back. You are helping support local economic growth by shopping local. You are sharing in my love for my community by eating in my establishment. I can never thank my customers enough."



From the Chamber:

Here are a few other reasons to shop locally:

- Create Jobs** – If every American spent \$64 on something made in America, we could create 200,000 jobs right now. Think of how that impact is compounded in your local community if you buy MADICO MADE. That's right. You can be a job creator just by shopping locally.
- Keep Money Local** – Sales tax helps fund vital services in our community. Also, local businesses are more likely to spend money locally, keeping more money in the community.
- Better Customer Service** – Local business owners are passionate about their businesses and want to be connected to the community. This often contributes to better and more personal customer service.
- Helps Our Community Grow** – Keeping tax dollars in our community and creating demand will help encourage new businesses and help the county grow.
- More Support for Nonprofits** – Studies show that nonprofits receive 250 percent more support from small businesses than larger businesses.
- Connect with your Community** – Shopping locally encourages people to purchase from businesses that are unique. This enables you to connect with people in the community and learn about things going on around you.

— from *MetroFamily Magazine*

 A graphic with a dark red background. At the top, it says "USING OUR WEBSITE" and "GRANTS ACCESS TO..." next to a "WWW" globe icon. Below this are six white boxes with icons and text:

- Membership Directory (book icon)
- Upcoming Events (calendar icon)
- Local Discount Deals (handshake with dollar sign icon)
- Job Postings (document with 'JOB' icon)
- Current News (envelope with 'NEWS' icon)
- Community Resources (two people icon)

 At the bottom, there is a "Sign up for Our E-Newsletter" button with a right arrow, a "Scan Me!" QR code, and the "CHAMBER OF COMMERCE" and "MADICO MADE" logos.

madisoncountygga.org

Log on soon to madisoncountygga.org and browse the website for an interactive business and organization membership directory, local discounts, job postings, community news, upcoming community events and much more. Signing up for the Chamber's weekly e-newsletter is the best way to stay in the know of all things MADICO MADE.

About the Chamber of Commerce

“Our community’s success is our business,” said Chamber of Commerce Director Anna Strickland. “The focus of the Madison County Chamber centers on our role as the go-to organization to serve as the catalyst for community and economic development. Led by a dedicated board of directors representing a diverse cross-section of business and industry, we exist to connect our citizens, organizations, and businesses with the resources they need to make Madison County thrive.” Strickland said the Chamber assists by:

- **strengthening** our local economy by promoting the community’s assets;
 - **providing** networking opportunities for you to connect with other like-minded businesses for shared success;
 - **recruiting** new businesses that diversify our local economy
 - **encouraging** member-to-member collaborations for enhanced business exposure;
 - **convening** leaders and influencers to impact lasting change
 - **investing** in your professional development and other educational needs;
 - **advocating** for you on legislative issues impacting small businesses
 - **growing** tomorrow’s community and business leaders.
- While the Chamber champions for our entire business community, we first and foremost serve our member businesses and organizations through offering various membership benefits.

Contact the Chamber

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to the Chamber if we can ever be a resource to you. Visit www.madisoncountyga.org or call 706-795-2191 ext. 1453. Thank you for making it a MADICO MADE Day!

— Chamber Director Anna Strickland

2021 ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

116 NEW MEMBERS **92% RETENTION RATE**

256 TOTAL MEMBERS
Investing in the Chamber and taking advantage of their membership benefits

6 COMMITTEES **33 PROJECTS & INITIATIVES**

Streamlining the programmatic functions of the Chamber that effect real change in the community. positively impacting local community and economic development

TOP CHAMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- New Chamber of Commerce Website
- New MADICO MADE Brand
- New Madison County Young Professionals Group

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Pioneer Harvest Festival
- Taste of Madison County
- Blessing of the Farms

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2022

- Power Hour Series for Millennial Managers
- Virtual Business Education Series
- Virtual Chamber Check-ins
- Emerging and Established Workplace Leadership Series

CONNECT AND GROW WITH US!
www.madisoncountyga.org

Folk & Fine Arts Festival

March 4-5 • 2022

Friday, 3-8 p.m., Meet the Artist Sip and Shop Reception
Saturday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Festival

Email: folkandfinearts@commercega.org
or Call 706-335-6407

WWW.FOLK-FINEARTS.COM

NEED HELP?
211 IS HERE.

2-1-1
Local resources are available now.
Text your zip code to 888-211 or call 211 today.

2-1-1 is a program of United Way of Hamilton County. For more information, visit www.211.org



BETTER

together

Being a cooperative is more than our business model; it describes how we work in homes, businesses and communities every day.



jacksonemc.com



County Landmark



— excerpt from Paul Tabor's *"The History of Madison County, Georgia,"* page 30. The book is available at the Madison County Library:

Madison County has had three courthouses on the public square. The first was built in 1813 or early 1814, the second in 1834 and the present one in 1901. No record has been found of the kind of construction and cost of the first. It was probably a log house built for about \$500 and paid for with money from the sale of lots in Danielsville. The second courthouse was a frame building costing about \$2,400 and paid for by increased taxes. Benjamin Towns was the builder. A rail fence enclosed the square to keep out hogs, cattle, horses and sheep. The third courthouse was built by a contractor, Fred Wagener, for \$18,314.50. With the architect fee added the total cost was about \$22,500. This amount was provided by a bond issue that required two elections for approval and about ten pages of legal papers for validation. The county had not sold bonds previously. The brick for the courthouse and jail built a few years before were burned locally. They were above average in quality. Construction costs were low because the prices for materials and labor were low.

Ag, a Madison County Way of life

By Carole Knight

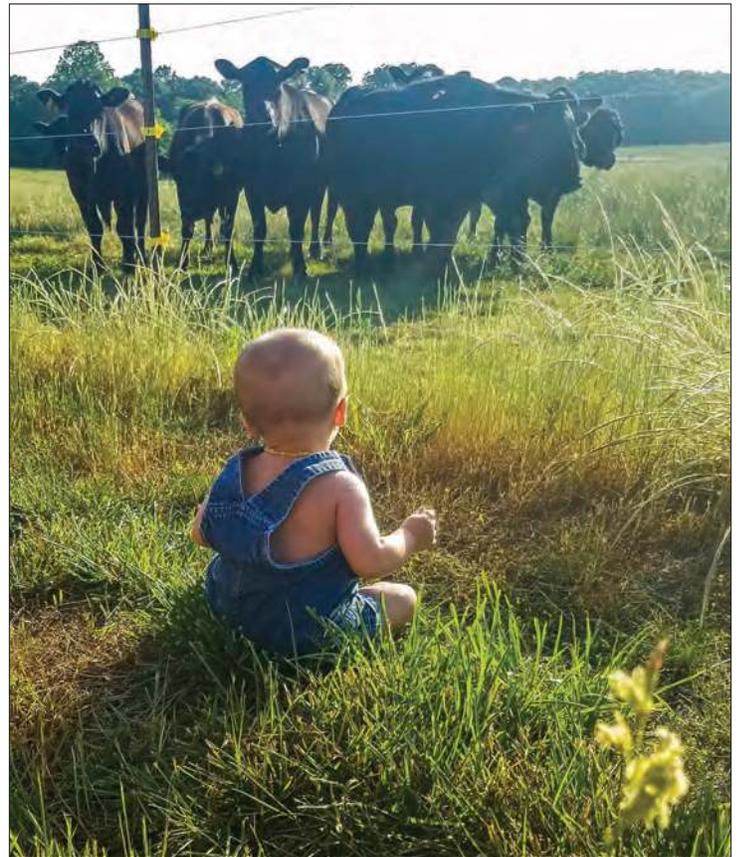
Agricultural roots run deep in Madison County. Madison County has been primarily an agricultural community for most of its history. In the nineteenth century farmers grew corn, beans, pumpkins, and later cotton and oats. The latter half of the nineteenth century saw the introduction of beef and dairy farming as well. Since the early 2000s, poultry production has dominated the local economy and still remains the top industry today.

Agriculture is Madison County's largest industry and plays a vital role in its economy and communities. Agriculture is contributing food, clothing, and shelter to meet the greater needs of our society. Agriculture also provides other benefits such as green space and aesthetics that allow residents to appreciate the beauty of rural America. Agriculture contributes significantly to the county tax base with the least demand for services. The Farm Gate in Madison County is valued at \$256 million, ranking it eighth in the state. Our main commodities are poultry and livestock, but also include row and forage crops, forestry, fruits and nuts.

There are numerous ways to experience agriculture in the county. There are agritourism opportunities including u-pick fruits, cut flower farms, a vineyard and farmers markets. In addition, there are a variety of farms that offer direct to consumer sales. Consumers can purchase farm-fresh meats, vegetables, fruits, nuts and honey. There are also value-added products available — wine, flours, grits, salsas, pickles, jams and jellies. Experiencing Madison County's agricultural community is as easy as driving down the road. Highways lined with rolling pastures and grazing cattle fill the county.

Madison County has a long agricultural history that has paved the way for a thriving industry. The future of agriculture is strong here. Not only is it strongly supported by the county's leadership, but there is a booming agribusiness sector that provides goods and services to support producers. The county also provides opportunities for youth in-

Madison County has a long agricultural history that has paved the way for a thriving industry.



terested in agriculture through its FFA and 4-H programs. Madison County is steeped in agricultural traditions and producing the agricultural industry's next leaders.

Carole Knight is the UGA Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Madison County.



We are excited to be part of a great rural Georgia county!

Madison County Democrats Invite YOU to join us in our efforts to support:

- *Healthy family farms* • *Free and fair elections*
- *Protection of our unique and beautiful natural resources*
- *Access to affordable, decent health care* • *Safeguarding Social Security and Medicare programs*
- *Equity in economic opportunity* • *Consumer protection from fraud*
- *Safe homes for all levels of incomes* • *Broadband Internet access* • *Flourishing public education*



Our Democracy Needs Democrats! *Won't you join us?*

Madison County Democrats meet the fourth Saturday of each month, either in person (COVID protocols respected as needed), or on Zoom.

You can find more information about us, our meeting times and locations, and special events on:

Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MadisonCountyGaDemocrats
and/or Our website: <https://mcdgademocrats.wixsite.com/mcdp> Phone: 706-789-3336



Gina Belles Restaurant



530 General Daniel Ave., North Danielsville, GA
(Across From Madison County Hardware)

706-795-0288

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***Come and enjoy real home cooking just
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Rural Beauty



Local services

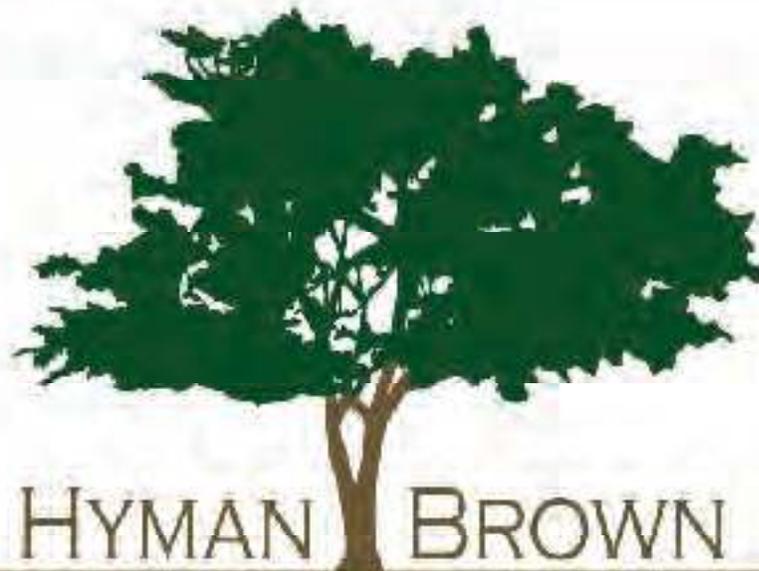
M.A.R.T.'s Information

Beginning in 1991, a group of concerned citizens representing residents, agencies, and businesses began to collaborate in an effort to improve services for Madison County residents. In 1994, those involved named the group the Madison Area Resource Team (M.A.R.T.). Over time the collaborative grew and evolved into a formal entity. In early 2000, M.A.R.T. formed a partnership with Family Connection, having applied for a Family Connection grant in 1999.

The M.A.R.T. Collaborative meets monthly. Membership is open to social service agencies, school personnel, policy makers, businesses, churches, and other community members interested in collaborating to address human service and quality of life issues facing families and children in Madison County. Please contact us if you are interested in attending a monthly meeting at 706-795-3565.

Service	Agency	Phone	Website
Childcare/ Preschools	Easterseals of North GA	706-795-2092	www.easterseals.com/northgeorgia/
	Happy Kids Learning Center	706-546-8611	www.happykidslci.com
	Madison County Early Learning Center	706-795-5611	www.madison.k12.ga.us
	The Busy Box	706-795-2951	www.thebusybox.com
	The Learning Train Academy	706-714-3427	www.facebook.com/Learning-Train-Academy-720765571337441
Children/Youth Activities	Madison County 4-H	706-795-2281	www.extension.uga.edu/county-offices/madison/4-h-youth-development
	Madison County Library	706-795-5597	www.athenslibrary.org/madison
	Madison County Rec Dept	706-795-6270	www.madcorec.com
Clothing	Colbert First Baptist Church	706-788-2214	www.colbertbaptistchurch.org
	Danielsville Baptist Church	706-795-3548	www.facebook.com/DanielsvilleBaptist-Church
	Gordon's Chapel Baptist Church	706-548-6616	www.gordonschapel.com
Disability	GVRA-Employment	706-354-3900	www.gvs.georgia.gov
	Multiple Choices	706-850-4025	www.multiplechoices.us
	NE GA Regional Commission-Area Agency on Aging/Disability Services	706-583-2546	www.negr.org/aging
Education/ Training	ACTION, Inc	706-795-2180	www.actionathens.org
	Athens Tech	706-355-5000	www.athenstech.edu
	NE GA Work Source GA	706-369-5703	www.negr.org/workforce-development
Employment	ACTION, Inc	706-795-2180	www.actionathens.org

	GA Dept of Labor Career Center	706-583-2550	www.dol.georgia.gov/locations/athens
	GVRA (Disability Employment Services)	706-354-3900	www.gvs.georgia.gov
Food Assistance	Madison County DFCS (Food Stamps)	706-795-2128	www.dfcs.georgia.gov/locations/madison-county
	Madison County Food Bank (list of other county sites available)	706-795-5465	www.madisoncountygga.us/Dir/Departments/Food-Bank/39
Health Insurance	Madison County DFCS (Medicaid)	706-795-2128	www.dfcs.georgia.gov/locations/madison-county
Health Insurance	Marketplace Coverage	1-800-318-2596	www.healthcare.gov
Health Services	Madison County Health Dept	706-795-2131	www.publichealthathens.com/wp/clinics/health-departments/madison-county
	Madison County WIC Center	706-795-3231	www.publichealthathens.com/wp/clinics/health-departments/madison-county
	MedLink	706-788-2127	www.medlinkga.org/location/colbert
	Mercy Health Services	706-425-0820	www.mercyhealthcenter.net
Housing Assistance	ACTION, Inc	706-795-2180	www.actionathens.org



HYMAN BROWN

INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

COMMERCE OFFICE

11 State Street • Commerce, GA 30529

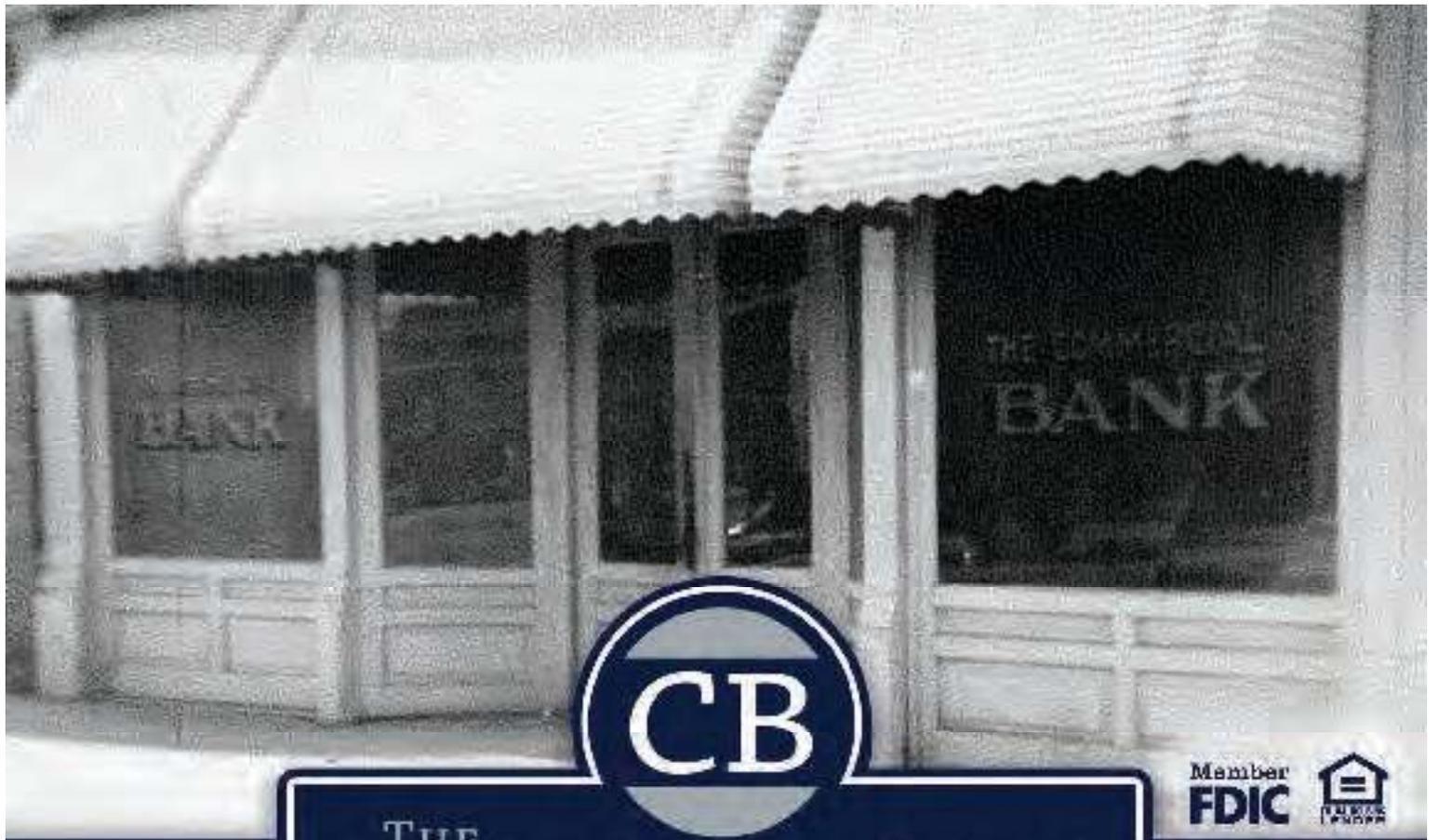
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- SOUTHERN MUTUAL CHURCH



Member
FDIC 

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We are proud to serve Madison County

	Ninth District Opportunity	N/A	www.ndo.org
	The ARK United Ministry Outreach Center	706-548-8155	www.athensark.org
Mental Health Services	Advantage Behavioral Health	706-389-6789	www.advantagebhs.org
	MedLink	706-788-2127	www.medlinkga.org/location/colbert
	Pathways Transition Program	404-378-2300 ext 5	www.pathwaystransitionprograms.com
	Project Family	706-705-2881	www.projectfamilygeorgia.com
	Stephanie Higdon, LCSW, CAADC	706-206-5627	www.mindingyou.net
Senior Services	Madison County Senior Center	706-795-6250	www.facebook.com/MadisonCountySeniors
	NE GA Regional Commission-Area Agency on Aging	706-583-2546	www.negrc.org/aging
Substance Abuse	Celebrate Recovery/ Danielsville Baptist Church	706-795-3548	www.facebook.com/DanielsvilleBaptist-Church
	Colbert AA Group/Colbert Baptist Church	N/A	www.negaaa.org/colbert-group-aa-group-in-colbert-ga
	Stephanie Higdon, LCSW, CAADC	706-206-5627	www.mindingyou.net
Support Services	Caregiver Support/ Athens Area Comm Council on Aging	706-549-4850	www.accaging.org/services/caregiver-support
	Georgia Legal Service Program	706-227-5362	www.glsp.org
	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/Athens Area Comm Council on Aging	706-549-4850	www.accaging.org/services/caregiver-support/grandparents-raising-grandchildren
Victim Services	Harmony House (Abuse)	706-680-4723	www.harmonyhousecacsac.org
	Project Safe (Domestic Violence)	706-543-3331	www.project-safe.org
Volunteer	Madison County Habitat for Humanity	706-783-8086	www.mcghfh.org
	Madison County Mentor Program	706-338-3689	www.madison.k12.ga.us
	Madison County Senior Center	706-795-6250	www.facebook.com/MadisonCountySeniors

Visit us online at MadisonJournalTODAY.com

MC Education

The Madison County Charter School System serves approximately 5,000 students who reside throughout the district with five elementary schools, Madison County Middle School, Madison County High School, the Broad River College and Career Academy and the Madison County County Early Learning Center.



“Our focus is on learning to provide superior experiences in academics, arts, athletics and activities. Our teachers and leaders have and will continue to work diligently together to ensure our purpose — graduating independent, productive citizens — remains at the forefront for all that we do.”

— Michael Williams,
Madison County School Superintendent



Madison County High School's Class of 2021 had a 95.3-percent graduation rate.



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10 pounds

\$50

2 - Ribeyes
2 - NY Strips
2 - Filet
16 - 1/3 pound
Pre-pattied Hamburgers
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\$175

24 - 1/3 pound
PRE-PATTIED
HAMBURGERS

\$50

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WE ARE YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

ABOUT US

MedLink Georgia is a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center that has been providing quality, affordable healthcare to Northeast Georgia since 1979. We offer 19 convenient locations, including Colbert and Danielsville, and see patients of all ages from a 1 walks of life. Taking care of our community is what we do. We offer quality healthcare regardless of your financial situation. If you need assistance, ask our team about the sliding fee scale or any available community resources.

OUR MEDICAL SERVICES



Behavioral Health
Colbert & Danielsville



Pharmacy
Colbert



Primary Care
Colbert



Pediatrics
Colbert & Danielsville



Dental
Danielsville



Diabetes Education & Nutrition Counseling
Colbert

To schedule an appointment call

706.521.3113

MedLink Colbert

11 Charlie Morris Rd
Colbert, GA

MedLink Danielsville

306 Courthouse Square
Danielsville, GA

Visit our website

MedLinkGA.org



Fast Facts from 2021:

•**Schools:** seven total schools, five elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, an Early Learning Center and a Broad River College and Career Academy

•**Students:** 4,986 total students, 2,346 elementary school students, 1,206 middle school, 1,434 high school; three percent Asian, 10 percent Black, 12 percent Hispanic, five percent Multiracial, 69 percent White, less than one percent Other; 17 percent special education (SPED), seven percent English as a Second Language (ESOL), 54 percent qualifying for free/reduced lunches, nine percent gifted

•**Meals:** 274,647 meals served in 2021, 491,163 total lunches, 17,209 summer meals served, 99.6 average health score

•**Employees:** 749 total staff members, 315 classified, 434 certified, average experience — 15 years, advanced degrees — 76 percent

•**SAT** — Madison County, 1071; Georgia, 1077; U.S., 1038

•**ACT** — Madison County 22.4; Georgia, 22.6; U.S., 20.7



Madison County High School began offering a JROTC program in the 2021-22 school year.

•**Dual enrollment and AP:** 210 dual enrollment, 210 credits earned; 154 AP students, 70.13 percent scored 3+ on exams

•**School bus miles:** 801,029 total miles, 4,262 route miles daily, 767,160 route miles for the year, 33,869 field-trip miles



BOE

The board of education meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 800 Madison Street, Danielsville

•**District 1:** Robert Hooper, chairman, 706-255-5264, bhooper69@windstream.net

•**District 2:** Angie McGinnis, 706-540-0404, angie.mcginnis@ Piedmont.org

•**District 3:** Cindy Nash, vice chair, 706-549-1279, nashfamily06@yahoo.com

•**District 4:** Byron Lee, 706-338-3174, byron-lee2016@gmail.com

•**District 5:** Brenda Moon, 706-224-0670, moonbrendar@gmail.com





—Photo by Lauren Peebles-Townsend, Dream Chaser Productions

A stylized logo for Seymour's Garage & 24hr. Towing. The logo features the word "Seymour's" in a large, red, cursive font with a white outline and a drop shadow. Above the "S" is the text "EST. 1965" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below "Seymour's" are the words "GARAGE & 24hr. TOWING" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the phone number "(706) 335-4545" is written in a large, red, bold font with a white outline and a drop shadow. The entire logo is set against a white background and enclosed in a red double-line border.

Colbert Elementary School
255 Colbert School Road, Col-
bert
706-788-2341
Principal: Angela McCarty
Students: 434

Comer Elementary School
565 Gholston Street, Comer
706-783-2797
Principal: Dr. Amanda Sailors
Students: 385

Danielsville Elementary School
900 Madison Street, Danielsville
706-795-2181
Principal: Deana Bray
Students: 415

**Hull-Sanford Elementary
School**
9193 Fortson Store Road, Hull
706-353-7888
Principal: Theresa Bettis
Students: 485

Ila Elementary School
150 Sewell Mill Road, Ila

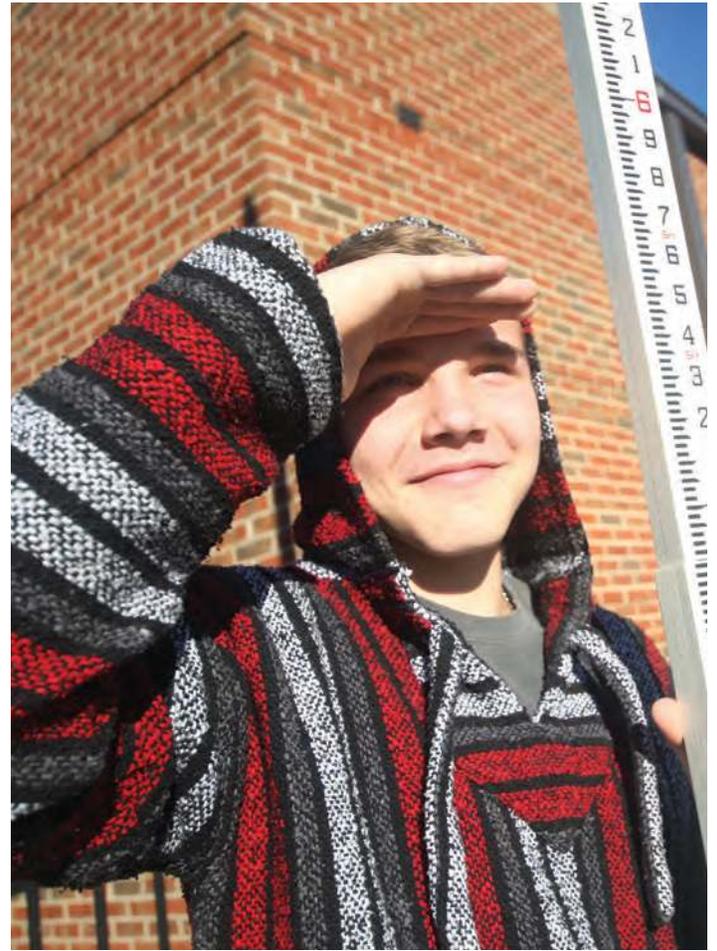
706-789-3445
Principal: Missy Andrews
Students: 425

**Madison County
Middle School**
3215 Hwy. 172, Comer
706-783-2400
Principal: Georgia Bullock
Students: 1,206

Madison County High School
600 Madison Street, Danielsville
706-795-2197
Principal: Jamie Dixon
Students: 1,434

Early Learning Center
800 Madison Street, P.O. Box 37,
Danielsville
706-795-5611
Director: Michele Barrett
Students: 178

Broad River Academy
600 Madison Street, Danielsville
706-795-2173
Principal: Dr. Paul “Bo” Boykin





**Teachers of the
Year, 2021**

Systemwide:

Jaime Hinsley

Colbert: Kelly Brychell

Comer: Charity Best

Danielsville: Bobby

Cutts

Early Learning Center:

Beth Andrews

Hull-Sanford: Leigh

Coberly

Ila: Carol Watkins

MCMS: Jaime Hinsley

MCHS: Sonia Coile

**Support Staff
of the Year, 2021**

Systemwide:

Lisa Crumley

Colbert:

Lizzy Williamson

Comer: Allison Trump

Danielsville:

Lynn Adams

Early Learning Center:

Debra Jachimski

Hull-Sanford:

Lindsay Holland

Ila: Lisa Crumley

MCMS: Tanya Moon

MCHS: Angie Slaton

Valedictorian: Teresa Vu

Salutatorian: Macy

Mullis

Star Student: William

Ethan Wilkinson

Star Teacher: Dallas

Cowne



County government



County website: madisoncountyga.us

Animal Control	706-795-5589
Animal Shelter	706-795-2868
Board of Assessors	706-795-6355
Board of Commissioners	706-795-6300
Board of Registrars	706-795-6335
Building Inspection	706-795-6350
C.H.A.M.P.S.	706-795-6207
Clerk of Courts	706-795-6310
Code Enforcement	706-795-5685
Cooperative Extension	706-795-2281
Coroner	706-567-0517
Emergency Medical Services	706-795-6280
Finance Office	706-795-6304
Food Bank	706-795-5465
Human Resources	706-795-6309
Industrial Authority	706-795-9865
Keep Madison County Beautiful	706-795-5151

Madison County Emergency Alert System	706-795-2934
Madison County Library	706-795-5597
Magistrate Court	706-795-6375
Occupation Tax	706-795-6350
Planning and Zoning	706-795-6345
Planning and Zoning agendas and minutes	706-795-6340
Probate Court	706-795-6365
Property Valuation Office	706-795-6355
Public Safety Communications	706-795-0893
Purchasing Department	706-795-6305
Recreation Department	706-795-6270
Recycling Center	706-795-3222
Road Department	706-795-6260
Senior Center	706-795-6250
Sheriff's Office	706-795-6202
Solid Waste Transfer Station	706-795-3222
Tax Commissioner	706-795-6385
Technology	706-202-5973

Commissioners

Todd Higdon, Chairman

P. O. Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706)795-6300
Fax: (706)795-2997
thigdon@madisonco.us

Dennis Adams, District 1

P. O. Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706)202-8885
dadams@madisonco.us

Terry P. Chandler, District 2

P. O. Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706) 338-6341
tdchandler@windstream.net

Frank May, District 3

P. O. Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706) 795-6300
fmay@madisonco.us



Madison County commissioners meet on the first and last Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the county government complex in Danielsville.

Brian Kirk, District 4

P.O. Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706)540-8290
bkirk@madisonco.us

Derek Doster, District 5

P.O. Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706)521-2141
ddoster@madisonco.us

Christina Baxter, County Clerk

PO Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706)795-6302
Fax: (706)795-2997
cbaxter@madisonco.us

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- WE ACCEPT MOST INSURANCE PLANS, INCLUDING ALL MEDICAID PLANS



Madison County Voting Precinct Locations

PRECINCT	LOCATION	ADDRESS
Colbert	Colbert First Baptist Church Family Life Center	65 S. 5 th Street Colbert, GA 30628
Collins	Collins Fire Department	8631 Hwy 172 Comer, GA 30629
Comer	City of Comer Travel Museum	70 Highway 72E Comer, GA 30629
Danielsville	Madison County Board of Elections & Registrations Office	20 Albany Ave. Danielsville, GA 30633
Fork	Carlton Baptist Church Family Life Center	100 Church St. Carlton, GA 30627
Harrison	Harrison Fire Department	3710 Wildcat Bridge Rd Royston, GA 30662
Hull	Hull Community Center	1346 Old Elberton Rd Hull, GA 30646
Ila	Ila City Hall	5211 Danielsville Street Danielsville, GA 30633
Mill	Jones Chapel Life Center	5601 Hwy 29 N Danielsville, GA 30633
Paoli	New Hope Community Center	2466 New Hope Church Rd Comer, GA 30629
Pittman	Sanford Community Center	6469 Nowhere Rd Hull, GA 30646
Poca	Poca Volunteer Fire Department # 2	1706 Hudson Rivers Church Rd Danielsville, GA 30633



**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**1547 W. Hwy. 98 W
P. O. Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633**

706-795-5465

ALL DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED; HOWEVER, SOME TO CONSIDER:

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
(preferable 100% Juice)
- Canned or Dry Beans
- Canned Meats
- Dried Milks
- Rice
- Whole Grain
- High Fiber Cereal
- Oatmeal/Cream of Wheat
- Cooking Oil
- Condiments



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CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
For children Ages 0-12 yrs.
Starting in October.
Applications are accepted
by appointment only.

TO USE FOOD BANK:

- You must have a Food Bank Referral form (DPCA, Church or an Agency on their letterhead)
- You can use the Food Bank twice in 6 months.
- You will need a referral each time you use the Food Bank.

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Madison County Food Bank is to offer food assistance to individuals and families, treating them with dignity and respect.



Find voting information at mcelections.net or call 706-795-6336



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Frequently asked questions

Q: Where is the Madison County Government Complex located?

A: The Madison County Government Complex is located at 91 Albany Avenue Danielsville, GA 30633. Hours are 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday-Friday. For specific questions, please see the department listing for contact information. For questions relating to Madison County Online, please email webmaster@madisonco.us or call 706-795-6300.

Q: Where do I obtain a drivers license?

A: Please visit the Department of Driver Services for information concerning Georgia Drivers Licenses. The nearest Drivers License Office is located at 1505 US 29 North Athens, Ga. 30601

Q: Does Madison County require a business license?

A: Please contact the Building Inspection Department for more information. 706-795-6346.

Q: How do I obtain an auto tag?

A: Auto tags may be purchased at the Tax Commissioner's Office in the Government Complex in Danielsville, GA.

Q: Where can I find a recycling center?

A: There is a recycling center at the Madison County Transfer Station . For more information please call 706-795-5151.

Q: Where do I obtain a marriage license?

A: The Probate Office, located at the Government Complex in Danielsville, Georgia, issues Marriage License. For more information, call 706-795-6365.

Q: Where do I obtain a gun permit?

A: The Probate Office, located at the Government Complex in Danielsville, Georgia, issues gun permits. Please call 706-795-6365 for more information.

Q: Where can I find/adopt a pet?

A: The Madison/Oglethorpe Animal Shelter is locat-

ed at 1888 Colbert-Danielsville Road, Danielsville. For more information, please visit <http://www.moas-pets.org>

Q: Where do I pay property taxes?

A: Property Taxes are paid in the Tax Commissioner's Office in the Government Complex in Danielsville, GA. Please call 706-795- 6385 for more information.

Q: Where do I pay tickets?

A: Traffic tickets are paid in the Probate Office located at the Government Complex in Danielsville, Georgia

Q: Where can I obtain county maps?

A: County street maps are available at the Madison County Government Complex and the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, for more information go to <http://www.madisoncountyga.org>.

Q: Who do I contact for a building permit?

A: The Planning and Zoning Office located at the Government Complex in Danielsville, GA, issues building permits. Please call 706-795-6340 for more information.

Q: Who do I contact for a burning permit?

A: The Georgia Forestry Commission issues Burning Permits for Madison County. For more information, please call 877-652-2876

Q: Who do I contact for beer and wine licenses?

A: The Madison County Board of Commissioners Finance Office issues Beer & Wine License to business inside the County, but outside City Limits. For more information, call 706-795-6300 or email the Chairman's Office.

Q: Where do I register to vote?

A: Contact the Registrar's Office located at the Government Complex at 91 Albany Avenue Danielsville, GA, for voter registration. For more information, please call 706-795-6336 or email Tracy Dean.

**Planning
commission**

— Meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. in the government complex.

Chairman Conolus Scott
William Smith

Duane Bruno
Kenneth Bradley
Cynthia Fortson
Lee Mitchell
Bruce Gandy

Industrial authority

— Meets the final Wednesday of the month at 8 a.m. at the industrial authority office

Executive director: Frank Ginn

Chairman Josh Chandler
Marc Perry
Jean Mullis
Ben Morris
Todd Higdon (BOC chairman, non voting)

Board of Assessors

— meets the second Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. in the government complex

Ralph McCay Jr., Chairman
Michael Baker, Vice-Chairman
Steve Singleton

District attorney

D. Parks White 706-795-6321
40 Spring Lake Drive
Danielsville, GA 30633

Superior Court Judges

Jeffery S. Malcom, Chief Judge
R. Chris Phelps
Harvey Wasserman

U.S. Congress

Senate:

Jon Ossoff, 202-224-3521
Raphael Wornock, 202-224-3643

House:

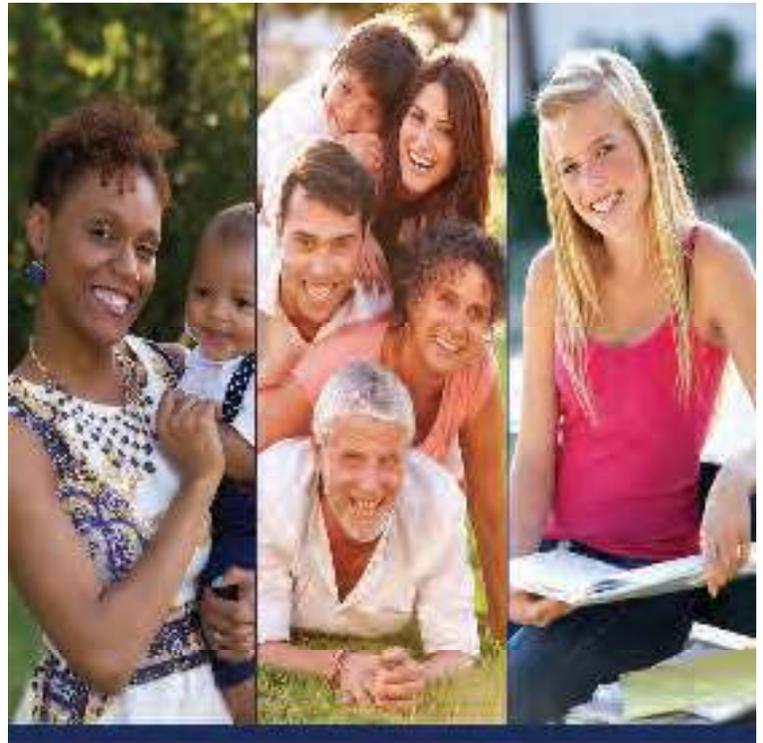
Andrew Clyde, 202-225-9893

Legislators

State Senate, District 47:
Frank Ginn, 404-656-4700

State House District 32:
Alan Powell, 404-656-7856

State House District 33:
Robert Leverett, 404-656-0188



Madison County Health Department

Services Include:

- Adult & Child Immunizations
- Birth Control (IUDs, pills, IUD)
- Blood Pressure Screening
- Breast & Cancer Screening (for nursing and prenatal)
- Environmental health resources (pests, asbestos, radon)
- Hearing and Vision Testing
- HIV Testing
- Hypertensive Treatment (outpatient)
- Lab Tests (urinalysis, blood, urine, cholesterol & more)
- Pregnancy Testing
- STI and TB Testing & Treatment
- WIC: women, infants & children supplemental food program
- Women's Physical Exams

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Public safety

Sheriff's Office

The Administrative Division of the Madison County Sheriff's office is located at 1436 Hwy 98 W Danielsville. The office is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m to 5 p.m. If it is before or after hours, or you need a deputy to be dispatched to your location, call the 9-1-1/Communications Center at 706-795-2101 for immediate assistance.

This Administrative Office is the office to call for a copy of an accident or incident report.

The Jail Division maintains the jail for the county. It is responsible for housing inmates and the security of the facility. This division also processes bonds and transports inmates to court appearances, medical/dental facilities and state detention facilities.

The Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for follow-up and inves-

tigation of crimes that are reported in Madison County.

The Uniform Patrol Division is the most visible division of the Madison County Sheriff's Office. This division is responsible for answering all calls for service, traffic enforcement, serving civil papers and conducting security checks throughout the county. It is divided into four shifts, each working 12-hr./day to provide 24-hour protection.

The Training Division is responsible for maintaining training records for all officers, offering classes so that officers can meet the statutory required 20 hours of training per year.

Danielsville Police Department

10 Government Circle
Danielsville

706-795-5512
706-795-2731 (fax)

Comer Police Department

70 Sunset Avenue
Comer
706-783-0077
706-783-3378 (fax)

Emergency Medical Services

Ambulances are dispatched from the central facility in Danielsville and stations are located in Comer, Danielsville, Hull/Sanford and Ila. The county has an E-911 Emergency System to facilitate access to emergency care.

Telephone: 706-795-6280 Fax: 706-795-2980

EMS Station 1

1578 Highway 98W, Danielsville, GA
EMS Station 2



Madison County Sheriff's Office
J. Michael Moore, Sheriff
1436 Highway 98
PO Box 65
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone 706-795-6202
Fax 706-795-2999

It is an honor to welcome you to Madison County. As your Sheriff, you have my solemn oath that my team of law enforcement professionals will work hand in hand with the communities we serve to make Madison County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. The Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency for the citizens of our County and as such I will always hold myself and every member of this agency to the highest levels of service and integrity.

Please take the time to look around our webpage for the information that you need. You can also find out more about the Sheriff's Office on our Madison County Sheriff's Office Facebook page. We can always be reached by telephone at 706-795-2101 or normal office hour 8-5 Monday - Friday at 706-795-6202.

Webpage: www.madisoncountysheriffs.org
Email: michaelmoore@madisoncountysheriffs.org
Telephone: 706-795-6202

Sheriff, J. Michael Moore



169 Laurel Avenue, Comer, GA
EMS Station 3
5170 Danielsville Street, Ila, GA
EMS Station 4
9175 Fortson Store Road, Hull, GA

Fire Departments

There are 11 fire departments that serve Madison County, all of them staffed by dedicated volunteers. In case of fire, citizens should call E-911 for assistance.



Carlton VFD

27 Seventh Street
Carlton

Comer VFD

412 East Sunset Avenue
Comer

Colbert VFD

150 N. Third Street
Colbert

Collins VFD

8631 Hwy. 172
Comer

Danielsville Volunteer Fire Department

60 Government Circle
Danielsville

Harrison VFD

3710 Wildcat Bridge Road
Royston

Hull VFD

20 Daniel Street
Hull

Ila VFD

5170 Danielsville Street
Ila

Neese-Sanford VFD

7276 Neese Commerce Road
Hull

Poca VFD

1706 Hudson Rivers Church Road
Danielsville

Shiloh VFD

2149 Jones Chapel Shiloh Road
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Towns

Danielsville was founded in 1812 and designated as the county seat. It was incorporated as a town in 1817 and as a city in 1908. It was named for General Allen Daniel (1772-1836), who served as a Major-General of the Fourth Division of the Georgia Militia (1812-1817) and as both a state senator and a representative of Elbert and Madison counties.

The historic county courthouse on the town square was built in 1901 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. A statue of Dr. Crawford W. Long, a Civil War physician who was born in Danielsville, stands on the courthouse grounds. Dr. Long is recognized as the first physician to successfully use ether as an anesthetic during surgery.

Danielsville is home to a growing population and also serves as the center of most county government and school facilities, including the Board of Education central offices, Madison County High School, the Broad River College and Career Academy, Danielsville Elementary School and Easter Seals Head Start.

Comer is the county's largest town in terms of full-time residences. It was incorporated in 1893. The motto is "Make Our Town Your Town."

The center of town was designated by the state as a historic district.

It is home to a well-attended annual Christmas parade, held the first Saturday in December. The Madison County Agricultural Fair is held at the Comer Lions Club fairgrounds near Comer every September.

Colbert was originally known as "Five Forks" when it was chartered in 1899 because of the five principal roads that met there (near where the traffic signal is now located). Those roads lead to Danielsville, the Diamond Hill Community, Comer, Crawford and Athens.

Today, Colbert is known as the "City of the Red Cannas" and travelers will see these flowers blooming in season all along the downtown area.

The city's name was changed to Colbert in 1909 in honor of the Colbert family, one of the town's earliest residents.

The railroad was built through the town in 1891 and the train depot was constructed in 1892. The depot and the historic downtown are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The train depot has been restored and currently houses Colbert City Hall.

In 1969, the annual Colbert July 4th celebra-

Councils

Carlton

— meets the first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Carlton City Hall

Mayor Cynthia Hobbs
Roy Fornash
Amanda Willis
Pete Wagonaar
Ken Parthun
Tim Seymour

Colbert

— meets the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in Colbert City Hall

Mayor Chris Peck
Roger Fortson
Greg Magrum
Jonathan Pou
Ray Thomas

Comer

— meets the first Monday following the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. in Comer City Hall

Mayor Jimmy Yarbrough
Sherman Mattox
Ron Farren
Laura Minish
Michael Wilder

Danielsville

— work sessions held the last Monday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. Regularly scheduled council meetings are held on the second Monday of each month beginning at 7 p.m.

Mayor Michael Wideman
Libby Loftis

Joe Federico
Steve Russum
Dona Miller

Hull

— meets the fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. in Hull City Hall.

Mayor Paul Walton
Brian Kopenick
John Barber
Mike McElroy
Donna Sherrer-Gantt

Ila

— meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. in Ila City Hall

Mayor Mike Coile
Troy Butler
Donald Freeman
Brian Kelly
Wanda Lanphear

tion, parade and barbecue began. The event will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year.

Colbert officials and residents also hold an annual “Christmas in Colbert” celebration every December in the downtown district.

Ila is at the western end. The historic outpost of Fort Lamar flourished near the town’s present site. Ila was originally settled in 1879 with a post office in a small town named O’possum. Judge Emory Speer acquired approximately 500 acres of land through a lawyer fee which he sold to Dr. George C. Daniel who secured, and named the post office which was fed by a route from Danielsville to Harmony Grove (now Commerce). He later sold the property to Chan Campbell and Llewellyn Thomson, who erected a store and changed the name of the place to Ila in honor of a little girl of the community. The change of name from O’possum to Ila has been dated to circa 1882-1883. During the 1880s, Dr. George W. Westbrook joined them and the area grew into a small community. The land was incorporated as

the town of Ila in 1910. Ila covers 0.81 sq. miles. The town was the first event on a busy Madison County Christmas schedule in 2021, holding its event at the end of November.

Hull is located at the southern end of the county, just at the Athens-Clarke County line. Hull is known as the “Well City” from a long-standing water well (now capped off, but prominently marked) at the center of town that folks from all around used to provide water to themselves and their livestock. Hull is the county’s smallest city, but is a busy thoroughfare for commuters. Hull’s first post office was known as “Dowdy.”

Carlton is the youngest of the county’s towns, incorporated in 1970. It contains a number of historic homes and churches, many of them located along Railroad Avenue. Watson Mill State Park is located nearby, with its covered bridge, hiking and horseback riding trails, picnic and recreational areas. The town was reportedly named for Dr. Henry Carlton, of Athens.

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Giving spirit

Madison County is filled with people willing to pitch in and help others, such as the churches stepping up for the hungry, the Rotary Club constructing handicap ramps for those needing assistance getting in and out of their homes, the Lions Club helping the vision impaired, public safety workers stepping up to help needy kids have a merry Christmas, the Pilot Club teaching children about brain health or hosting a car seat check, TJ and Friends raising funds for local cancer patients, a major food distribution drive in Hull, community Thanksgiving meals, a group trekking out of state to help storm victims, a daily giving of hope and kindness to refugees at Jubilee Partners, or kids putting up a lemonade stand and raising funds for a worthy cause. The giving spirit is frequently on display in Madison County, a regular photo-and-text stream of good happenings and good hearts filling the pages of The Madison County Journal.



MC in pics



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Hull, Georgia



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A look back

Madison County, named for President James Madison, was the 38th county formed in Georgia. It was created in 1811 from parts of Clarke, Elbert, Franklin, Jackson and Oglethorpe counties.

The county has six small municipalities. Various unincorporated communities also dot the county, such as Dogsboro, Shiloh, Paoli, Pocatigo (Poca for short), Ft. Lamar, Bluestone, Roger's Mill, Mason Mill, Booger Hill, Jot-Em-Down, Vineyard's Creek, Sanford (formerly Sawdust), Neese, Planter and others.

Founded in 1812, Danielsville was named for General Allen Daniel, a Revolutionary War veteran, and would eventually be recognized as the county seat. The first courthouse was the Strickland House, which is located

on Hwy. 98 West near the Madison County Library and the county recreation department. The county built a new courthouse in 1901 in the center of town and a statue of Dr. Crawford W. Long, who was also a Civil War veteran, was erected on the the courthouse grounds. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Long was born in Danielsville in 1815 and his boyhood home is a recognized landmark in town.

Madison County's government offices and courts were moved from the courthouse to the Madison County Government Complex on Albany Avenue in Danielsville in 1997. The complex was previously the site of Danielsville Elementary School.

See 'A Look Back' on Page 46



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New Hope Presbyterian Church, located in the Paoli Community (the county's oldest settlement), was established in 1788 and is the third oldest church in Georgia.

The soils of Madison County were heavily damaged by the cotton monoculture common in this region prior to the 1930s. Much of Madison County is currently considered prime agricultural land. Agribusiness dominates the local economy.

Madison and neighboring Oglethorpe counties share Watson Mill State Park, the site of the longest covered bridge in Georgia. The bridge, which is over 100 years old, spans 229 feet of the South Fork of the Broad River. The park contains facilities for camping, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking and fishing. There are also areas near the bridge to enjoy swimming and wading in the river.

Fort Lamar

Situated in what was formerly the Cherokee Indian section of Georgia in the northern part of Madison County near Hudson River was an old Indian fort. The fort was

built by Captain John Lamar in 1790 and was called "Fort Lamar," named after him.

Captain Lamar was born in 1740 and died in Columbia County on June 18, 1799. He fought in the battles of Eutaw Springs and

Cowpens under General Marion and Pickens, and was in the siege of Augusta. He was taken prisoner by Cornwallis, twice wounded by the British and once by the Indians after his removal from Georgia.

Captain John Lamar's Company, formed in Augusta on Aug. 30, 1775, comprised 42 men. The company, named "The Committee of Safety," was one of the first companies in Georgia to assist in the defense of the rights of the American colonies.

Captain John Newton Montgomery bought the land, on the highest hill where Fort Lamar was built, from Major Thomas Jones before the Civil War. On his return at the close of the war, after being held prisoner on Johnson's Island since his capture on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, he gave each of his five sons a plantation. The land on which Fort Lamar stands was deeded to John Lucas Montgomery right after the Civil War and has been in possession of the family since that date.



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